

Patent Application No. 10/623,016
Amendment B in response to
Office Action mailed December 1, 2005
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Atty Dkt No. LMRX-P019/P1154

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful review of the claims, specification and drawings, as well as for the allowance of claims 1-11, 13-20, 22, 24, 25, 36-40, 42-45, and 49-59.

In response to the Office Action mailed December 1, 2005, independent claim 26 has been amended.

Claim 33 has been canceled.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-11, 13-20, 22, 24-31, 34-40, 42-45, and 49-59 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that each and every feature recited in the amended drawing and/or amended claims are fully supported in the specification as filed. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 26-31 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen et al. (US 6,528,426) and Shih et al (US 6,797,627), hereinafter "Olsen" and "Shih."

The Office Action rejected claims 34, 35 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen/Leon or Olsen/Shih as applied to claims 13, 26 above, and further in view of Wang et al. (US 6,527,968), hereinafter "Wang."

The Office Action cited Luo et al. (2002/0005392), hereinafter "Luo," to show prior art.

The Office Action cited Roberts et al. (US 5,626,775) (col. 5, line 25-30), hereinafter "Roberts," to show prior art.

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Claims 26-31 and 34-35

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable matters in claim 33 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. According to the Examiner, "Claim 33 is allowable because applied prior art doesn't suggest performing HCL solution dip on substrate prior to rinse using the rinsing solution that includes the DI-water.

Applicants hereby incorporate the limitation of allowed claim 33 (performing a HCL solution dip on said substrate, which is one of the two alternative limitations in claim 33) into independent claim 26. Claim 33 is hereby canceled.

Accordingly, amended claim 26 should now be allowed. Furthermore, the pending claims that depend from amended claim 26 (i.e., claims 27-31 and 34-35) should also be patentable due to their dependence from the patentable parent claim. Alternatively or additionally, these claims 27-31 and 34-35 are novel, nonobvious, and patentable due to their independent recitations of independently patentable features.

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Conclusion

In view of the discussion herein, Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at 408-257-5500.

If any petition is required to facilitate the entry of the present amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore as well. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees beyond the amount enclosed which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. LMRX-P019).

Respectfully submitted,

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